



City of Ridgecrest **Police Department**

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SERGEANT MIKE MYERS, TRAFFIC DIVISION

DATE: 5/22/13

SUBJECT: Press Release

Ridgecrest Police Department plan DUI Saturation Patrols

Ridgecrest, CA – The Ridgecrest Police Department Traffic Unit will be conducting two DUI Saturation Patrols within the city limits.

- DUI Saturation Patrol for May 24, 2013, from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.
- DUI Saturation Patrol for May 26, 2013, from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

On May 24, 2013, between 10pm and 2am, the Ridgecrest Police Department will be having it's first of two DUI Checkpoints. Funding for the Checkpoint is provided by a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Police Chief Ron Strand warns those who fail to consider the consequences of driving under the influence. "Our Officers will be out looking for impaired drivers and hope the citizens in Ridgecrest will help by calling 911 when they see a drunk driver". Chief Strand added, "It only takes a few minutes to make arrangements for a ride home or a designated driver".

The following clues can help motorists detect a drunk driver:

1. Weaving/swerving in and out of the lane
2. Weaving within the lane quite noticeably
3. Traveling at speeds much slower than the flow of traffic
4. Braking erratically or stopping in the lane
5. Sudden stops for signal lights and slow start once the light changes
6. Remaining at the signal lights once they turn green-asleep at the wheel
7. Making wide turns and /or cutting the corner, striking the curb
8. Headlights off at night or on high beams
9. Driving with the turn signals on
10. Straddling the center line of the road or lane lines
11. The driver looks intoxicated-staring straight ahead, face close to the windshield, and appears to be quite sleepy.
12. Finally aggressive driving – speeding, tailgating and multiple lane changes.

“How many times have you seen someone driving erratically in an unsafe manner and wished there was a Police Officer around?” said Ridgecrest PD Sergeant Mike Myers. “Law Enforcement cannot be everywhere at once. We need the public’s help to find impaired drivers and get them off the roads promptly”. How to Report a Drunk Driver

1. Call 911 and tell them you wish to report a suspected drunk driver.
2. Give a complete description of the vehicle, such as the make, model, color and license plate number.
3. Give the exact location of the vehicle, including the name of the road, cross streets and the direction they’re traveling.
4. Do not try to stop the car or detain the driver. Leave that to a law enforcement officer.

Note: During heavy traffic periods there could be delays in reaching the 911 operator on your cell phone. Be prepared to stay on the line with your information.

The Ridgecrest Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.